



U.S. Embassy San Salvador, El Salvador

Please follow the steps below *before* your immigrant visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Step 1: Register your appointment online

You need to register your appointment online with our Visa Information Center (VIC) prior to your appointment. Registering your appointment provides us with the information we need to return your passport to you after your interview. Every applicant needs a registration, which is free. Click the "Register" button below to register. You will need your passport, case number, and visa category to register.

The VIC will give you a registration number called a "UID." Keep this number handy since you will need it during Step 2 and to pick up your passport after your visa interview.

[Register](#)

Step 2: Get a medical exam in El Salvador

As soon as you receive your appointment date, you must schedule a medical exam in El Salvador at least three weeks (3) prior to your interview. Click the "Medical Exam Instructions" button below for a list of designated doctors' offices in El Salvador. Please schedule and attend a medical exam with one of these doctors before your interview.

[Medical Exam Instructions](#)

Step 3: Complete your pre-interview checklist

The embassy will review your immigrant visa case file *before* your interview. If anything is missing, we will send you an email using the address you listed on your Form DS-260 and in your VIC registration (see Step 1 above). In our email, we will tell you which items on the below checklist you need to gather and bring with you on your interview day. The email we send will have the subject line "Preparación del Caso" and your case number, which begins with the letters "SNS."

[Pre-Interview Checklist](#)

Step 4: Review interview guidelines

Read our interview guidelines to learn about any special actions that you need to take *before* your visa interview.

[Interview Guidelines](#)

Contact information

U.S. Embassy
Boulevard Santa Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlan
San Salvador, El Salvador

Phone:
From El Salvador: 2113-3122
From the U.S.: (703)745-5476

Email:
support-elsalvador@ustraveldocs.com
(For Attorneys)
congansal@state.gov

Skype:
[ustraveldocs_centralamerica](https://www.skype.com/people/ustraveldocs_centralamerica)

Chat:
<http://ustraveldocs.com/sv/sv-main-contactus.asp>

Website:
samsalvador.usembassy.gov

☒ Cancel and Reschedule:
[Visa Information Center](#)

Map:



Other links

- [After your interview](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

Social media



Interview Preparation Video





Medical Exam Instructions

All immigrant visa applicants, regardless of age, require a medical examination prior to the issuance of a visa. Only a physician accredited by the U.S. Embassy can perform this exam. **It is your responsibility to schedule a medical exam with one of the doctors listed below at least three (3) weeks before your visa interview appointment** at the U.S. Embassy. Medical examination results from other physicians will not be accepted.

Approved physicians

DR. JUAN GUILLEN

Edificio Avante, Nivel 9, Local 03-A,
Santa Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2263-9884, 2101-1275, 2519-1070, 7661-8813

DRA. MAGDALENA MANCIA

11 Calle Poniente, No. 4130 entre 79 y
81 Av. Nte. Col. Escalón
San Salvador, San Salvador
Phone: 2526-8353, 2263-0042

DR. ROBERTO ZELAYA

Edificio Avante, Nivel 9, Local
03-B, Santa Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2246-1241, 2246-1242

DRA. FRIDA BICHARA

Blvd Orden de Malta No.6, Bosques de
Santa Elena 2, contiguo a la Plaza
Monte Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2246-1541, 2508-3716, 7786-9565

DRA. KARLA TOBAR

Edificio Avante, Nivel 9, Local 13,
Santa Elena
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2246-0724, 2100-1088, 2100-1445, 2246-0722, 2246-0723

Items to bring to your medical examination

Bring the following items to your medical exam:

- Your UID number from your registration with the Visa Information Center (see [Step 1](#)),
- Your passport plus one photocopy of the passport's biographical page,
- Your visa interview appointment letter showing your case number,
- Five (5) recently taken color photographs sized 2x2 inches on a white background,
- Your vaccination records and a copy. If you do not have vaccination records, the physician will work with you to determine which vaccines are medically necessary for you. **Note: Presenting counterfeit or falsified vaccination records may result in the denial of your immigrant visa.**
- Medical records and prescription information for any medical conditions you currently have, and
- A white sheet of paper with the following information:
 - Current home address,
 - Address in U.S. where you plan to reside
 - Contact email
 - If the patient is a female and has children, the dates of birth of all children.
- *Applicants under age 14:* If the mother or father does not accompany the applicant to the medical exam, the person accompanying the applicant must bring a legal power of attorney giving him/her authorization to accompany the minor to the exam and for the minor to take the exam.

↓ Continued on next page ↓



Medical Exam Instructions

Any medical examination fees, including x-ray and blood test fees, must be paid directly to the examining physician. The basic exam fee is approximately \$250 per person. Any required vaccinations, additional x-rays, or follow-up tests will be charged separately and require additional fees. Costs can be as high as \$695 per applicant. Any fee in conjunction with further tests or examinations will be at the expense of the applicant. The total cost of the medical examination will depend on your personal medical condition.

Items to take into consideration on the day of your exam:

- Access to the clinic is limited to the applicant. A parent/legal guardian or escort may accompany a minor or an applicant with a special need.
- It is not necessary to fast on the day of your appointment.
- All applicants must arrive at the physician's office before 10:00 a.m. in order for the results to be completed on the same day.

Scope of the Examination:

Please be advised that all immigrant visa applicants are required to submit themselves to a thorough examination conducted by an approved panel physician. Examinations are conducted in conformity with technical instructions issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and will include:

- A mental status examination which includes, at a minimum, assessment of intelligence, thought, cognition (comprehension), judgment and mood, and behavior
- A physical examination that includes, at a minimum, examination of the eyes, ears, nose and throat, extremities, heart, lungs, abdomen, lymph nodes, skin and external genitalia (visual and palpation)
- And, all diagnostic tests required for the diagnosis of the diseases identified as communicable diseases of public health significance and other tests identified as necessary to confirm a suspected diagnosis of any other condition that may affect the applicant's eligibility for an immigrant visa.

Applicants should bring their vaccination records to the examination, along with any medical records the applicant believes might be relevant to their particular medical history, including current prescription drug names, doses, and frequency of use.

During the medical exam

The medical examination will include a medical history review, physical examination, and chest X-ray, gonorrhea test, and blood tests (for applicants 15 years of age or older). The United States also requires tuberculosis (TB) testing for all applicants two years of age and older. *The embassy-approved physician will give you a referral to an approved x-ray clinic and/or serologic testing laboratory if required for you to take these tests. The approved clinics are:*

Healthcare X Ray Clinic

Calle Llama del Bosque, Edificio
Valencia, 1er Nivel, Local No. 1 &
2 Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2246-1524
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Healthcare Laboratorio Clínico

Calle Llama del Bosque, Edificio Valencia, 1er Nivel, Local
No. 1, Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad
Phone: 2246-1527 or 2246-1528
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

↓ Continued on next page ↓



Medical Exam Instructions

Please be prepared to discuss your medical history, medications you are taking, and current treatments you are undergoing. More information on general medical requirements for U.S. immigrants is available [here](#).

U.S. immigration law requires immigrant visa applicants to obtain certain vaccinations prior to the issuance of a visa.

Current immigrant visa vaccination requirements are available [here](#). You can also read Frequently Asked Questions about our medical examination requirements [online](#).

After the medical exam

When your examination is completed, the doctor will send the report directly to the U.S. Embassy.

Any x-rays taken will be given to you. You **DO NOT** need to bring the x-rays to your visa interview unless you suffer from tuberculosis (TB). However, you **must** carry the x-rays with you when you travel to the United States for the first time. The medical report must be less than six months old when you enter the United States as an immigrant.

Pre-Interview Checklist ☒



Below is a list of documents the consular officer needs to see during your visa interview. The embassy will send you an email titled "Preparación del Caso" if any of these documents are missing from your case file. Please bring any missing items with you to your visa interview, following the instructions below.

- ☐ A copy of your NVC interview letter (does not apply to Diversity Visa, fiancé(e), adoptive, or asylee/refugee applicants).
- ☐ Unexpired passport and a photocopy of the biographic page (where your name and photo are located). Please also bring any previous passports used to travel to the United States, including all U.S. visas previously issued to you.
- ☐ Two (2) color photographs of each person applying for a visa (5 cm x 5 cm, or 2 inch x 2 inch). Please review our [online photo requirements](#).
- ☐ Confirmation page from the Form DS-260 Application for an Immigrant Visa you submitted online at ceac.state.gov/iv.
- ☐ Your UID number from your registration with the Visa Information Center (see [Step 1](#)),
- ☐ Your **original** birth certificate, without modifications or corrections.
- ☐ A recent birth certificate, issued no more than 90 days before your visa interview.
- ☐ Medical exam results. (See [Step 2](#).) *The results from your medical examination will be sent to the Consular Section directly by the doctor's office.*
- ☐ Original or certified copies of birth certificates for all children of the principal applicant (*even if he or she is not accompanying*).

Applicants who fall into any category listed in italics below should bring these additional documents if requested by the embassy in an email prior to your interview:

For family-based visa applications:

- ☐ The appropriate [Form I-864 Affidavit of Support](#) for **each** financial sponsor along with a photocopy of the sponsor's IRS transcript or most recent U.S. federal income tax return, and any relevant W-2s.
- ☐ Evidence of the relationship between the petitioner and visa applicant (This includes birth certificates of any common children, wedding photos, family/vacation/holiday photos, remittance receipts, cards/letters, proof of jointly-owned property, joint bank accounts, utility bills in both names, insurance policies in your names, joint tax returns, etc.).
- ☐ *If you are married:* Your **original** marriage certificate.
- ☐ *If you were previously married:* Your **original** divorce or spouse's death certificate.
- ☐ *If you are widowed:* The **original** death certificate of your deceased spouse.
- ☐ *If you are older than 18 years of age:* The **original** police certificate from your country of current residence and countries of previous residence. If these three items are **all** true, you must bring a more recent police certificate to the interview:
 1. You are older than 18 years;
 2. You obtained a police certificate and submitted it to NVC more than one year ago; and
 3. You still live in the country that issued the police certificate.
- ☐ *If you have ever been convicted of a crime:* Court and criminal records.

↓ Continued on next page ↓

Pre-Interview Checklist ☒



- ☐ *If you have served in any country's military:* Military records.
- ☐ *For employment-based visa applications:* Letter from your U.S. employer dated less than one month ago.
- ☐ *If you are adopted:* Adoption papers or custody documents.
- ☐ *If you are the petitioner's stepchild:* The **original** marriage certificate of the petitioner and your biological parent, and **original** divorce records for any previous marriages of either parent.
- ☐ *If the petitioner is your father:* If your birth was registered late or recognized by your father more than one (1) year after your date of birth, submit your infant footprints from your birth hospital and baptismal certificate (only if the father's name appears on the documents), as well as photos.
- ☐ *If you have been detained in or deported from the United States at any time:* All documents relating to your immigration proceedings, including deportation orders, voluntary departure orders, and immigration court proceedings. If you were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or political asylum in the United States at any time, you must submit a photocopy of all applications for TPS or asylum, any approval or denial documents, and any cards issued to the applicant. Claims of TPS or asylum will not be acknowledged without complete documentation – the burden of proof of legal status in the United States is on the applicant.
- ☐ *If you were in the United States illegally and were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or political asylum:* You must submit all applications for TPS/asylum, any approval or denial documents, and cards issued to the applicant. Claims of TPS or political asylum will not be acknowledged without complete documentation – the burden of proof of legal status in the United States is on the applicant.
- ☐ *If you have special needs or are under the age of 14:* You must be accompanied to the interview by a biological parent or legal guardian who must show proof of legal custody with a power of attorney, or by someone in possession of a notarized power of attorney from the biological parent or legal guardian. The accompanying adult must show proof of identification on the day of the interview.

Interview Guidelines



Sending documents to the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador

If you need to send us any documents, please DO NOT mail them to us directly. Instead, visit our online [Visa Information Center](#) and ask for information on courier services.

Rescheduling or cancelling your interview

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please go to our online [Visa Information Center](#) to select a new appointment date. **There may be a significant wait before the next available appointment**, so please attempt to attend the date already assigned. For some family-based and employment preference visa categories, a visa became available within the month you have been scheduled by NVC. **There is no guarantee that a visa will still be available on the date of your rescheduled interview.** Please carefully consult the [Visa Bulletin](#) before you decide to reschedule your interview.

Please note: *You need to register your original NVC/KCC appointment online before you can reschedule it. Rescheduling is only possible on a date after your assigned appointment.*

Security screening procedures

All visitors to the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador must follow certain security procedures. Any visitor who declines to be screened by U.S. Embassy security personnel will be unable to enter the embassy. To avoid delaying your entry and that of those in line behind you, please bring only what is required for your interview. There is no parking area at the embassy for visa applicants. Please arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment.

Accompanying persons

Attorneys are **not** permitted to accompany clients into the waiting room or to their interview. Only the following persons may accompany a visa applicant to their interview:

- Interpreter: Applicants may bring ONE interpreter if they do not speak English or Spanish well enough to participate in an interview.
- Special Needs Visitors: Applicants may bring ONE person to help if they are elderly, disabled, or a minor child.

Immigrant visa fees

If you have not paid all required fees to either the National Visa Center or via the appointment website, please be prepared to pay these fees on the day of your interview. All fees may be paid in U.S. dollars. We accept cash and credit cards only (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and Diners Club). We do not accept personal checks. *Please note that if you are found ineligible to receive a visa, the application fee cannot be refunded.* A complete list of fees can be found [here](#).

Do not make travel plans outside of El Salvador

If your visa is approved, we will keep your passport at the embassy while we prepare your immigration packet and print a visa for your passport. We will return your passport to you later via courier services only (see [Step 1](#)). If you have to travel within El Salvador while your passport is still with us, please make sure you have a valid picture ID other than your passport.

After Your Visa Interview



A consular officer can make a decision on a visa application only after reviewing the formal application and interviewing the applicant. ***There is no guarantee that you will receive a visa.*** Do not sell your house, car or property, resign from your job or make non-refundable flight or other travel arrangements until you have received your immigrant visa.

If more information is needed

Sometimes a consular officer is unable to make a decision on a visa application because he/she needs to review additional documents or the case requires further administrative processing. *When additional documents are requested*, the consular officer will give you a refusal letter that asks you to submit additional documents. The letter will include instructions on how to send those documents to the Embassy.

Administrative processing takes additional time after the interview. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days. However, the timing varies based on the circumstances of each case. Before inquiring about the status of administrative processing, please wait **at least** 60 days after your interview.

What happens after visa approval

Passport, Visa, and Sealed Immigrant Packet – We will place your immigrant visa on a page in your passport. Please review your visa to make sure there are no spelling errors. We will also give you a sealed envelope containing documents that you must give to U.S. immigration authorities when you arrive in the United States for the first time. ***Do not open this envelope. You must carry it with you; do not put it in your checked luggage.*** If you receive X-rays during your medical examination, carry those with you and give them to the U.S. immigration authorities.

USCIS Immigrant Fee – All individuals who are issued immigrant visas overseas must **pay an Immigrant Fee** to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **prior to traveling** to the United States. This fee is for processing your residency status and printing your Permanent Resident Card. The only people exempt from paying this fee are: children entering the United States under the Hague Process, returning residents, and people traveling on a K visa.

When You Should Travel – You must enter the United States *before* the expiration date on your visa, which is usually six months from the date of your medical examination. Your visa cannot be extended and all fees are nonrefundable. The principal applicant must enter **before or at the same time** as other family members with visas. Unless they are eligible for benefits under the Child Status Protection Act, children who are issued a visa before turning 21 years of age must enter the United States **before** their 21st birthday to avoid losing their immigrant status.

Getting a Green Card – Your Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card, also known as a green card, will be automatically mailed to the address in the United States that you write in your visa application form. This is a very important document that proves you have permission to reside in the United States. *If you plan to travel outside the U.S. before your green card arrives:* Please consult [USCIS's](#) and [CBP's](#) websites for rules about what documents you need to re-enter the country. We also recommend you check with the airline to ensure you are in compliance with their rules. *Once your card is issued, you should not stay outside of the United States for more than one year. If you do, you will lose your status as a Lawful Permanent Resident.*

Children's Issues – In the United States, children are required to have certain vaccinations before they can enroll in school. We recommend that you bring your child's complete vaccination records with you to the United States. If your child is adopted, you have full custody as a result of a divorce, or you share custody with another parent, you should bring a copy of all applicable adoption or custodial papers from the authoritative court in your home country. You will need these papers (translated into English) for issues such as school enrollment, medical care, and eventual citizenship.

Information for New Immigrants – Please visit the USCIS web page for helpful information on moving to the United States. You can read their publication "[Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants](#)" online.